



European Senior Team Championships

26 August - 5 September 2026

Hotel Royal Belvedere (****) Hersonissos Crete, Greece



1. Invitation

This is the official invitation to all European National Chess Federations and senior players for the EUROPEAN SENIOR TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP (categories 50+ and 65+) organized in Hersonissos, Creta (Greece) from 26th August (arrivals) to 5th September 2026 (departures).

2. Participation

2.1 Each National Federation of the European Chess Union has the right to register an unlimited number of teams in both categories: Open and Women 50+ & 65+.

2.2 Each team should consist of four (4) players and optionally one (1) reserve player. The teams may represent a National Federation or any regional structure of a National Federation (club teams, city teams, regional teams, national teams, or simply friends, etc. - there is no limitation), but all players must be members of the same federation.

In the 50+ category, players born in 1976 or earlier are entitled to participate.

In the 65+ category, players born in 1961 or earlier.

3. System and rate of play

3.1 In accordance with the ECU tournament rules, the European Championship will be played in four categories: 50+ and 65+ categories both in the Open and Women section.

3.2 There shall be a separate Women's Championship if there are at least 8 teams in the respective category. Otherwise, the Women's Championship shall be merged with the respective Open category.

3.3 The Championship will be played in a 9-round Swiss system.

The time control is 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes for the rest of the game+ 30 seconds increment for every move played.

The default time for all rounds is 15 minutes.

The ECU Tournament Rules apply.

4. Registration fees and registration and Visa information

4.1 ECU ENTRY FEE

Each team shall pay the ECU fee in the amount of 100 EUR by bank transfer to the following account:

Bank: UBS Group AG

Bank address: Bahnhofstrasse 45, Postfach - 8098 Zürich

Bank SWIFT code: UBSWCHZH80A

IBAN Account Number: CH03 0024 6246 1903 5360 X

Account Holder: European Chess Union

4.2 REGISTRATION FEE

The Registration fee is 100 EUR per player and accompanying persons. It includes accreditation and transportation from / to Heraklion airport (IATA code: HER) and Belvedere hotel on 26 August and 5 September. The registration period ends on 26 June 2026 (application deadline). Late registration entry fee is 200 EUR per player.

4.3 The federation or the captain of the team will pay the entry fee for all players and the deposit for the accommodation of all players, including accompanying persons, until the end of registrations on 26 June 2026. The Organizing Committee will contact each of the teams to confirm the registration and booking

4.4 Players who are not so accredited will not be included in the draw and their entry fees will be forfeited. Access to playing areas, venues and the hotels will be allowed only to people accredited by the organizer.

5. Accommodation and boarding

5.1 Official hotel and playing venue of the championship.

Bookings are possible only through the Organizing Committee.

OFFICIAL HOTEL: ROYAL BELVEDERE Hersonissos, Crete (****)

- Full board included: breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily.
- Free Wi-Fi, use of hotel swimming pools and hotel parking.
- All taxes (including Municipality and Tourism Tax).

Prices per person per day in:

Single occupancy room	Double occupancy room	Triple occupancy room
116 euros	86 euros	73 euros

5.2 The deadline for registrations and bookings is 26 June 2026, together with a 30% deposit for accommodation package. The deposit payments shall be sent to the organizing agency's bank account, free of bank charges. Pro-forma payment instructions, including bank account details of the organizing agency, will be provided upon each confirmed application.

5.3 Full payment for the hotel accommodation of participants and accompanying persons must be completed before the start of the 1st Round. Extra nights can be requested in advance and, upon availability, can be charged at the same rate

6. Tournament schedule

Day	Date	Hours	Activity
Wednesday	26 August		Arrivals
Thursday	27 August	10:30	Technical meeting
Thursday	27 August	15:00	Round 1
Friday	28 August	15:00	Round 2
Saturday	29 August	15:00	Round 3
Sunday	30 August	15:00	Round 4
Monday	31 August	15:00	Round 5
Tuesday	1 September	15:00	Round 6
Wednesday	2 September	15:00	Round 7
Thursday	3 September	15:00	Round 8
Friday	4 September	15:00	Round 9
Friday	4 September	21:00	Closing Ceremony
Saturday	5 September		Departures

7. Prizes

The Winners of the European Senior Team Championships 50+ and 65+ will be awarded the title “European Senior Team Champion 2026”.

The Winners of the European Senior Women Team Chess Championships 50+ and 65+ will be awarded the title “European Senior Women Team Champion 2026”.

Financial prizes: 8,000 + 8,000 added by ECU total **16,000 euros**.

Place	Category 50+	Category 65+	Category Women 50+	Category Women 65+
1 st	2500 EUR	2500 EUR	1000 EUR	1000 EUR
2 nd	1500 EUR	1500 EUR		
3 rd	1200 EUR	1200 EUR		
4 th	1000 EUR	1000 EUR		
5 th	800 EUR	800 EUR		

According to Article D.4.5 of the ECU Tournament Rules and Regulations, the prizes will be equally shared among the teams with the same score for the general standing’s prizes.

Trophies and medals will be given to the TOP 3 teams in each category. Players with the best rating performance on their respective board shall receive gold medals. Silver and bronze medals shall be awarded to players with the second and third best rating performance on their respective board. The award is in accordance with the ECU rules.

8. Anti-Cheating guidelines

The ECU Anti-Cheating guidelines are also valid for the European Senior Team Chess Championship.

9. Appeals procedure

A protest against the decision of an Arbiter must be submitted in writing to the Chief Arbiter, within 30 minutes after the end of the game. A protest fee of 200 Euro has to be paid to FIDE and it is refundable if the protest is upheld. The Appeals Committee may also decide to refund the fee if it considers the appeal was not frivolous.

10. Tie-break criteria

10.1 The ranking will be made according to match points. The team obtaining the highest number of match points being declared the winner of the competition.

10.2 The order of teams that finish with the same number of match points shall be determined by application of the following tie-breaking procedures in sequence, proceeding from A to B to C to D to the extent required:

A. by the sum of Sonneborn-Berger points, which is calculated as follows: match points of each opponent, excluding the opponent who scored the lowest number of match points, multiplied by the number of board points scored against each opponent respectively.

The highest number wins. In case of two or more opponents with this same number of match points the lowest results of multiplication should be excluded;

B. by the number of board points won, the highest number wins

C. by the sum of the board points of all team's opponents, the highest number wins

D. by the sum of the board points of all opponents defeated plus one half of the board points of all the opponents with which a tied result was achieved, the highest number wins.

10.3 The result of the unplayed match is as follows:

2 match points and 4 game points in case of an unplayed win, 1 match point and 2 game points in case of a bye, 0 match points and 0 game points in case of an unplayed loss.

11. Airport transfer

The organizer arranges the transfer for participants and accompanying persons from the Heraklion International Airport "Nikos Kazantzakis" IATA: HER to the official hotel only on the arrival day (26 August) and back on the departure day (5 September).

12. Entry visas (if needed) and health insurance

Requests for visa invitation letters, if needed, shall be included in the application form and submitted to the organizer before the application deadline. These requests can be processed earlier by e-mail if required.

All delegations and participants shall obtain their own medical insurance policy, valid in Albania, covering medical expenses and accident insurance. The organizers provide emergency & first-aid medical assistance during the games of each round.

13. Applications and information

Contact person: IO Giannis Kalesis

email: info@estcc2026.com

Official website: www.estcc2026.com

